

FOLK'S PALMYRA SPEECH.

Eight Thousand Persons in Crowd
Addressed by

ST. LOUIS POPULAR CIRCUIT ATTORNEY

Tells Them That Issue Between
Good and Bad Government
Is Clearly Defined.

Joseph W. Folk, circuit attorney of St. Louis, and Senator Francis M. Cockrell were the principal speakers of the day at the meeting under the auspices of the Confederate Monument Association of Palmyra on Saturday, August 15. "Folk for Governor" was the keynote of the meeting, and was expressed by the buttons and badges worn by thousands, and in the greetings given the circuit attorney as "the next governor."

Mr. Folk's declaration, "I am a democrat," was the most vigorously applauded of any in the day.

Mr. Folk's speech lasted for an hour and a half and was as follows:

You have asked me to talk to you on good government, but before we enter into that subject it is well to call to mind the purpose of the monument association under whose auspices this meeting is held. This occasion marks the beginning of a movement to fittingly honor ten brave Missourians who met their death during the civil war near this beautiful little city. They gave up their lives courageously on that mellow October day 41 years ago. The proposed monument is to do homage to the dead, not to stir up the embers of a bitter past. The people of all times have honored their heroic men with memorials and monuments, and it is entirely appropriate that the memory of those who died for the cause they believed to be right, should be kept alive in this manner. Thirty-nine years have gone by since the star of the confederacy set at Appomattox, and the ragged followers of a lost cause, with sad hearts returned to ruined and desolate homes. The bravery of confederate soldiers on field of battle has never been surpassed in the annals of the world, but as great as was this, the sublime courage with which after the war was over, they took up the duties of civil life, has been the admiration of all mankind. It takes as much courage to face life as it does to face death, and the confederate soldiers showed both kinds of courage in the highest degree.

The evening bells of life are tolling for the survivors of that fierce conflict, and one by one they are being laid to rest in their last camping ground. In the soft twilight of time the animosities of former years have subsided; the fires of hatred kindled by that strife are dead, and from the ashes has arisen the red rose of patriotism that blooms to-day for a united country. The deeds of those who wore the gray and those who wore the blue are now common heritage of a great nation. To-day some are ex-confederates, some are ex-federals, all are Americans. The soldiers of Lee and the soldiers of Grant can not commend the good on both sides, and unjustifiable acts on either side can find no honest defenders.

The position of Missouri in that encounter was one of "armed neutrality." Some who live here could agree with the farmer who resided in the vicinity of Culpepper, Va., whose possessions lay in a district where both Union and confederate soldiers foraged. The old fellow one day surveyed the streaks in the soil where his fences once stood, and remarked with much feeling: "I haven't took no sides in this yer war, but I'll be dogged if both sides aint took me."

The confederates and federals both fought for good government according to the conception of each. They contended for the same principles viewed from different standpoints. In the battle now being waged in Missouri against public evils, they should all be on one side. Missouri has been in the front in many great movements, and to-day she is leading in the fight for good government being made all over this land of ours. The "Missouri compromise" was at one time an important political issue. This contest can have no compromise with public plunderers. The Missouri "idea," which other states might follow, is an unrelenting exposure and punishment of official thieves, and that public office must be held for public good and not for private gain.

If a band of thieves had come to St. Louis and looted the city there would have been great consternation. The city was plundered for years by thieves so conscienceless as to make Ali Baba's gang seem tame. These did not swoop down on the city and capture it by force and arms. They were given charge of the municipal affairs by the people who elected these plunderers to be the makers of laws for them. In state affairs unfaithful public servants have betrayed their trusts and prostituted their positions to a scandalous extent. They have made a commodity of legislation, and passed or defeated bills for their own gain not for public good. Instead of public office being a public trust, to some it was a private snap. They have outraged every sense of honor, honesty, and decency and have insolently flaunted their corrup-

tion in the faces of the people. There are, of course, many officials in Missouri who are high examples of civic integrity. If all were corrupt we would be in a state of anarchy and there would be no hope.

All good citizens were appalled by the vast extent of official crookedness. On them the duty rests of correcting this disgraceful and shameful state of affairs. The people are responsible for the remedying of civic evils. In becoming a member of society each person incurs certain obligations which he must meet if he be of a desirable order of citizenship. Chief among these is the obligation of participating in the selection of those who exercise the legislative, judicial and executive authority of the state. The vast majority of the people are honest and want good government, but they are too often lethargic while the vicious minority are ever active. Some honest men vote on the day of a general election, and pride themselves on having thereby discharged their civic duties, but they have only partly done so. Only a small proportion of good citizens take part in the township, ward or precinct meeting where tickets for primaries and general elections are conceived. Through this neglect on the part of good citizens control is too often given to another element. We need in political affairs more men actuated solely by the public good, and fewer of those who are in politics for revenue only. It is as essential to good government for private citizens to conscientiously discharge their civic duties as it is for officials to perform their public duties faithfully.

There is an individual responsibility for the suppression of these evils that no citizen can escape. Some of you think if the government were left to you these things could not be, but you have a portion of the power now. Are you faithful to that trust? If you are not faithful with a part of the respon-

corruption, but there is, unfortunately, corruption in politics. It is time that honesty be recognized as the best policy in politics as well as in daily life. There are some who think that political support of an official is a vicarious atonement for wrongs against the state. Officials are not elected to enforce the law merely against political opponents, but to deal out "equal and exact justice to all, special privileges to none."

The failure to enforce law begets corruption. The trouble has been that men, through political pull or influence, have been able to escape the consequences of their acts. No man should be so great in any community as to be above the law. High or low, rich or poor, the penalty should follow the crime. Unless the laws are strictly enforced, one toleration leads to another, and general wrong is the result. The law is made to be enforced, not ignored. If it be a bad law the remedy is to repeal, not to disregard it. The fact that crime can not be wholly eradicated is no reason why it should not be punished. We can not make men good by law and have no power to create clean hearts within them, but by punishing their crimes they are checked, and others are prevented from doing likewise. In securing good government the "pen" is mightier than the sword.

The object of the law against bribery is to preserve official acts from the taint of corruption in order that officials may be influenced alone by the public good. An insidious form of legislative prostitution is the sale of laws in advance by political campaign committees, national and state, in return for contributions from corporate interests. This form of corruption, if the statements in the public press be true, has been carried on to a considerable extent all over the country. It is a method of embezzling the power of the people that is a serious menace to good government. What is the moral

mony and guaranteeing immunity from incrimination.

Good government demands that there be a constant search for corruption. Some think we should not hunt for vice, but I do not believe in waiting until it becomes so flagrant as to be a stench in the nostrils of decency before taking action. If corruption exists the sooner it is discovered and checked the better for the state. Corruption does not come out in the open; if we would find it we must look for it. Every engine that goes out over a well-regulated railroad is inspected before it starts, to detect defects, if any there be. If inspection reveals everything sound, then no harm is done; if a defect is found loss of life is prevented. It would be folly to wait until a train is wrecked by a defective wheel or axle before making an inspection. So there should be an unceasing searching for official corruption in order that it be stamped out if it exists, before it endangers civic life. It is well enough to display our virtues, but correction of public evils is the highest civic virtue. If investigation shows all to be well, then certainly there can be no cause for complaint. If on the other hand corruption is found, it can be nipped in the bud before it becomes strong enough to defy the people of a great state.

While other cities no doubt have been as corrupt as St. Louis, and the officials of other states as venal as some of those in Missouri, it is true that at no time has so much official corruption been laid bare as here in our own day. Those who believe in free government are looking to Missouri to see it vindicated by a righteous citizenship. Those who contend the people are incapable of self-government likewise await the outcome to prove their theory. The indifference of electors has always been the weakness of a republican form of government. To quicken them to action is a question of supreme importance.

The people of Missouri are confronting the gravest crisis of the history of the state. Will the people take the government into their own hands or will they permit further opportunity for plundering? If corruption is ever to be annihilated in the state, it must be done now. The corruptionists are shrewd; there is nothing they fear so much as an aroused public conscience. It is always their effort to lull the people into a false sense of security by honied words and high sounding phrases. Demetrius, the shrine-maker of Ephesus, saw in the gospel of the true God an end to his profitable business as a seller of shrines of Diana. He did not of course publicly put his protest on this ground, but he raised a mob against those who taught the new doctrine, by appealing to the Ephesians to stand by Diana, the goddess of the Ephesians. His real interest was mercenary, but he craftily appealed to the religious sentiment of the people to accomplish his purpose. It is always so. Official plunderers and their allies do not directly defend corruption; they do not put their objection on the true ground of self interest, but on one pretext or other, and by subtle and specious language, they attempt to attract attention to something else. When the people ask about corruption they answer by calling attention to the gorgeous landscape; when the people demand political honesty they answer by pointing out the physical beauties of the state. It is commendable to admire the beautiful, but let us not become so entranced while gazing, as to be oblivious to the hands of the thief in our pockets. The subject of civic importance now is the vindication of civic honor by the overthrow of civic depravity.

The people of Missouri have been grievously wronged by their corrupt legislators and they can no longer be fooled; they have been humiliated enough. There are sufficient honest and patriotic Missourians to scourge the money changers from the temple of legislation.

It can not be impressed on Missourians too forcibly that the good name of the state and her honor depends upon their action on official corruption. This is the paramount issue before the people. Some who reflect upon the penalty that has been eating into the civic life of our people are pessimistic as to the future, but I say that when they come face to face with the Missourian, and see him in his daily life of sturdy honesty and recognize the sterling virtue of his nature and the kind of character that sustains it, built on the rock of principle transmitted to him by his fathers, all doubts must disappear, for with that reservoir of virtue to draw from, the result of the fight for good government can not be in doubt.

In the history of civilization, first one nation rises and becomes the torch bearer of civil liberty, then another takes its place. Wealth can not preserve a state, only the integrity of the citizens can. If we do not cherish that civic character our forefathers left us, we will go down as the other republics have gone, during the flight of time through the ages. Man has more than a passive destiny. All things human must either advance or retrograde, and the same is true of governments resting on man. Civic righteousness carries them forward; civic depravity destroys them. The breaking of a span may wreck a bridge; the track of an earthworm may destroy a dam; the sting of a microbe may devastate a city, and the unseen mysterious agencies of corruption will, if tolerated, undermine and destroy states and nations. The power is with the people to preserve our institutions. All true reforms come from the masses. The preaching of the lowly Christian of early ages has had more influence upon civilization than a hundred kings with all their pomp and power.

The stronghold of the corruptionists in Missouri has been shattered by the shafts of the law and riddled by the mighty power of an incorruptible

press. They tremble now as they hear with ever increasing distinctness the distant rumbling of public indignation, but their hope is the people will soon forget. May those who place civic honor above sordid greed, who despise wrong and hate corruption, march in solid phalanx against the forces of error, and keeping step to the music of righteousness, make this their battle cry:

"Lord God of Hosts be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget."

Marion, Ralls, Monroe, Pike, Shelby, Scotland, Macon and a number of other counties were well represented. Members of Folk clubs of neighboring towns were in attendance in large numbers.

Senator Cockrell spoke on the same lines as Mr. Folk, and in support of his arguments in part as follows:

"The great mass of citizens are honest men, and they are entitled to honest government. They are entitled to officials who serve the public ends and not selfish purposes and it rests with them to get such."

"We have been appalled and humiliated at the bribery and corruption that have been exposed in the administration of national, state and city government; we have found corruption and bribery where it had no right to exist. We have seen the officers of the state and nation using the powers entrusted to them for selfish ends; but this does not mean that our civilization is retrograding, or that our people are becoming debased. That is not so."

"What it does indicate is that the people have not been careful in performing their political duties. The people of this country have it in their power to make their government honest if they use care and perform their duties. There are two duties of every citizen:

"First, to be active and take a personal interest in politics. Second, to look out for his own interests, and the interests of his home and family."

"You should see to it and select only honest men to office and to represent you in conventions."

"Select no man whose character is susceptible to bribery. Make sure of this in your primaries and school districts, in the sources of political power."

"Do this and there will be no bribers in your legislature, for there will be no one to bribe."

"Should a corrupt man slip in, he will be so outweighed by the balance of honesty that he will not dare to evil."

"There is really only one policy in public as in private life and that is honesty. You can remedy this whole thing and I have confidence that you will do it. I believe the honest, intelligent people of this country will remove all corruptionists."

Rooster in a Fog.

"We soon overtook her, however. She was flying the Louisiana state flag, a pelican, and as we ranged alongside her we found fourteen hard and desperate looking men in the stern."

"Haul down that rag!" I yelled at the top of my voice.

"My orders met with no response. Thirty marines stood on the poop deck of the Montgomery with muskets loaded with ball and buckshot cartridges."

"Sergeant, ready!" was the command.

"Haul down that rag, you!" I called out again, and down fell the pelican from its proud position.

"How in h—l did you know we were off here?" asked the captured captain.

"You've got a rooster on board," replied I, and he gave us warning of your vicinity at 4 o'clock this morning."

"I'll wring his neck," growled the furious rebel.

"No, you won't!" I sharply announced, "he's mine by right of capture," and since then I have always maintained that the Biblical rooster was not the only historic chancier.—Admiral Joret, in Washington Times.

Grief's Emblem in a Brewery.

Sidney Grant, the mimic and story teller, relates this experience of Nat C. Goodwin, who is playing this week at the Amphion theater:

"Goodwin and his charming wife, Maxine Elliott, were being shown through one of the great breweries of Milwaukee. As they were passing through an extensive storehouse where thousands of barrels of beer were ranged on either side, the actor, peering down the long, tunnel-like aisle, saw a flag floating at half-mast above the green at the far end of the storehouse. Asking what it meant, he was informed by the guide that the brewer's wife's mother was dead."

"Mrs. Goodwin, struck by the remarkable fact that a man showed such respect for his mother-in-law, said his grief must be very profound."

"Yes, my dear," Goodwin answered; "this flag droops at half-mast, and even his beer barrels are in tiers."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Oil Fuel for Locomotives.

Tests have recently been made on the Boston & Maine and the Florida East Coast railroads to determine the value of oil as fuel for locomotive engines. On the Florida railroad it was found, after a month's experimenting with a locomotive hauling its regular load, that 132.3 gallons of oil did the work of one ton of coal. Another test showed 131.8 gallons of oil to be equivalent to a ton of coal. In the Boston & Maine experiments the ratio was 140.26 gallons of oil to one ton of coal. It was found that the engine could be urged to a greater capacity with oil than with coal, and this with a smokeless fire.

A Critical Moment.

Secretary—All hope is lost. The governor will not sign your friend's pardon. There are 15 ahead of it.

Citizen—But he is signing them rapidly, and he appears to be in good humor. Secretary—Alas, his good humor won't last beyond the tenth or eleventh. I know the make of fountain pen he is using.—N. Y. Weekly.

Preparing for a Trip.

"Have you everything for the automobile?" asked the stranger, entering the store.

"Yes, yes," replied the clerk.

"Well, give me four yards of court-plaster, six gallons of arnica, a bundle of cotton batting, and half a dozen copies of 'First Aid to the Injured.'"—Yonkers Statesman.

Human Nature.

Perhaps you never noticed it, But it's gospel anyway. The person who agrees with you in everything you say Wants to get next to your coat, Or make of you a fool; He either thinks you're foolish—Or is himself a fool.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

AWKWARD FOR ALL PARTIES.



Visitor—Is Mrs. Smith in? Bridget—Yes, sur—but she told me to tell you she was out.—Ally Sloper.

Human Nature.

We search for microbes everywhere But show convenient blindness When it comes time to find them in Our milk of human kindness.—N. Y. Sun.

Lessons of Experience.

Mr. Slinpurs—But why do you insist that our daughter should marry a man whom she does not like? You married for love, didn't you?

Mrs. Slinpurs—Yes; but that is no reason why I should let our daughter make the same blunder.—N. Y. Weekly.

She Missed Some Years.

He—I know you won't like her, but you must certainly admit she's an up-to-date girl.

She—Not at all. She claims she's 20 years old. If she were really up-to-date she'd acknowledge she's 30, at least.—Philadelphia Press.

His Point of View.

"Some people," said Rev. Mr. Goodman, "can never be made to appreciate the value of religion."

"That's right," replied Pecksniff, the merchant. "They don't know how to catch the church trade at all."—Catholic Standard and Times.

The Salve That Cured.

"Why, Sharpe, I'm glad to see you so lively again. You were quite lame when I last met you."

"Oh! yes; I was awfully lame then. But that was before I got a verdict of \$5,000 against the railway company."—Tit-Bits.

An All Wool Defect.

Patron—I wouldn't take this pair of all wool undershirts for a gift.

Clerk—Why not?

Patron—Because the first time they come from the wash they'll be a pair of wristlets.—N. Y. Herald.

Information Wanted.

"Say, pa," began little Johnny Bumpernickie, "I've got a question for you."

"Well, let it come," said the old man.

"I want to know," continued the small investigator, "if painting a town red is a cardinal sin?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Better Part of Valor.

"Aren't you going to fight him?"

(Gnashing his teeth) "No! That's what he wants me to do. Think I'm going to do anything to oblige a scoundrel like him?"—Chicago Tribune.

Waste of Time.

"No, I never tan, no matter how much I'm out in the sun."

"Goodness! What's the use of having a vacation, then?"—Chicago American.

Vain.

"Did you find the Chinese a vain people?"

"Very. To hear a Chinese brag you could almost believe an American was talking."—Detroit Free Press.

A Matter of Business.

"Fair creature, I adore you!"

"Oh, that's all right, count. You get and talk it over with papa. Any arrangement you make with him will be satisfactory to me."—Chicago American.

Cherches in Fommo.

"Another tragedy," said the cynic, as shrill shrieks arose from the ruined cistern. "I suppose there is a woman at the bottom of it."—Yale Record.

An Angling Axiom.

She—I'd like to land at least one fish. I hate to go home without any.

He—Why, yes. One fish is worth a dozen explanations.—Puck.

Waiting.

"How soon do they intend to embark upon the sea of matrimony?"

"Just as soon as her father raises the blockade."—Puck.